(c) To resolve this matter, an inter-departmental committee was constituted by this Ministry. Based on the recommendations of the committee export of formulations of the said species by the exporters was allowed for a period of 90 days from 28.8.1997 to clear the existing stock of formulations. Further extension of time upto 31 March 98, by which time the revised Export-Import Policy will become effective, is also being considered. In addition, the Botanical Survey of India has been asked to carry out review of the status of the 53 plants, which have been put on the negative list of exports, in consultation with all concerned and make specific recommendations in the matter.

Liquor Addiction at Vishwa Bharati

1146. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Vishwa Bharati at Shantiniketan has become liquor addict in violation of the founding father Maharishi Robindranath Tagore's ban on flesh foods and alcoholic drinks, as appeared in The Statesman, dated 22.9.1997;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to do anything about it; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) The University has contradicted the contents of the news-item, in question.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Objectionable References in Text Books

1147. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that some text books prescribed for schools in Jammu and Kashmir and in other States contain objectionable references hurting patriotic sentiments of Indian Republic;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Defects in Current Examination System

1148. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have convened meetings of educationists and educational institutions like UGC, NCERT to discuss ways and means for removal of defects in the current examination systems;

(b) if so, the brief details of the suggestions made;

(c) the decision taken on the acceptable suggestions; and

(d) the brief details of unaccepted suggestions and reasons for their non-acceptance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (d) A meeting was convened on 27th June, 1997 to discuss various issues including those relating to examination reforms in the Secondary Education Sector. Some Members of Parliament, Heads of educational institutions and Principals of a few schools were among those who participated in the meeting. As a follow up of the discussions held in the meeting, a Working Group has been constituted for bringing about transparency in examinations and evaluation. The Group is yet to submit its report.